

Fact Sheet about the California Commission on Emergency Medical Services

This Commission provides a **vital** service to the tens of thousands of emergency medical technicians, paramedics, nurses, physicians, firefighters, police officers and others involved in the delivery of this essential public service.

The Commission on EMS is cost effective - The Commission on EMS is a 16 member regulatory approval and advisory body to the EMS Authority. Ten members are appointed by the Governor, 3 by Senate Rules, and 3 by the Speaker of the Assembly. They serve without pay. While the payment of necessary travel expenses is allowed, many EMS Commissioners do not seek reimbursement from the State and are instead reimbursed by their employers. The average annual cost to the State of California is approximately \$22,000.

The Commission on EMS is a problem solver - The Commission on EMS is a very active body, made up of physicians, firefighters, nurses, administrators and other disciplines, representing the EMS system stakeholders. The EMS Commission provides a critical and open public forum for the discussion and debate of issues vital to the health and safety of Californians. This important work cannot be accomplished successfully in a vacuum, and must be performed in the public arena to ensure that these regulations and guidelines serve the people of California, and not specific groups or organizations.

The Commission on EMS is productive - The EMS Commission and EMS Authority recently completed an enormously successful “Vision” project, bringing together over 250 constituents in a consensus-building process to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of EMS in California. To date, most of the 66 objectives developed during the Vision project have been implemented, demonstrating the ability of both the Commission and the Authority to “get the job done.”

The Commission on EMS ensures State EMS Regulations serve Californians – Emergency Medical Services are delivered through a cooperative network of independent governmental agencies and businesses. One of the EMS Commission’s statutory duties is to provide all participants in this cooperative system a collective review and approval of those state regulations governing the delivery of Emergency Medical Services in California. This step is important to maintaining meaningful input and balance of the different needs of those diverse participants. It is a critical tool in ensuring the regulations do not inadvertently disrupt that balance therefore reducing the effectiveness of the system.